

CHARLIE BAKER
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Lt. Governor

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Governor Baker Appoints Senator Jennifer Flanagan to Cannabis Control Commission

BOSTON – Governor Charlie Baker today named Massachusetts State Senator Jennifer L. Flanagan as the gubernatorial appointee to the five-member Cannabis Control Commission, charged with regulating both the adult use and medical marijuana industries. As a member of the State Senate, Flanagan has served on numerous legislative committees focusing on public health, substance misuse, and professional licensure. Additionally, she led efforts to enact comprehensive and bipartisan legislation proposed and signed by the Governor to combat substance use addiction through treatment, recovery and prevention.

“As a member of the legislature, Senator Flanagan has been a champion and important partner with us on bipartisan efforts to enact comprehensive legislation around substance use prevention, treatment and recovery,” **said Governor Baker**. “Her experience and service will be invaluable to the Cannabis Control Commission and to the people of Massachusetts as the Commission, our administration, the Treasurer, Attorney General, lawmakers, educators and public health and safety professionals work together to ensure the effective, responsible and safe implementation of the adult use of marijuana in the Commonwealth.”

Per statute, the governor’s appointee shall have a background in public health, mental health, substance use, or toxicology. Flanagan will resign her State Senate seat effective August 31.

“Senator Flanagan is an excellent choice to serve on the Cannabis Control Commission,” **said Senate President Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst)**. “Her academic, professional and legislative experience make her eminently qualified to serve. And, she’s tough but fair and her integrity is beyond reproach. Well done, Governor Baker!”

"I am honored to have been chosen as Governor Baker's appointee to the Cannabis Control Commission and I am grateful for the trust he has placed in me," **said Senator Flanagan (D–Worcester and Middlesex)**. "I look forward to serving on the Commission as Massachusetts moves forward in responsibly regulating this new industry."

The Cannabis Control Commission was established by the ballot initiative approved by voters last November and in bipartisan legislation [signed by](#) Governor Baker in July, consisting of one appointee each from the Governor, Treasurer and Attorney General, and two members to be agreed upon by the majority of those three constitutional officers. The legislation established a requirement that the Cannabis Control Commission set potency limits for edible marijuana products and that it adopt packaging requirements that conform to a detailed list of health and safety protections.

Earlier this month, Governor Baker [named five appointees](#) to the Cannabis Advisory Board, charged with studying and making recommendations to the Cannabis Control Commission on the regulation and taxation of marijuana.

About Senator Jennifer Flanagan:

Senator Jennifer L. Flanagan has represented the Worcester and Middlesex District of the Massachusetts State Senate since 2009. First elected in 2004 to represent the 4th Worcester District of the Massachusetts House of Representatives where she would serve for two terms, Flanagan began her career in public service as a legislative aide and Chief of Staff on four legislative committees in the House. In the State Senate, Flanagan has chaired the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities and the Special Senate Committee on Addiction Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Options. She has also served as Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Health and Joint Committee on Public Service, and as a member of the Joint Legislative Committees on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, and State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. A resident of Leominster, Senator Flanagan graduated from Leominster High School and obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Sciences from the University of Massachusetts Boston and a Master's of Science degree in Mental Health Counseling from Fitchburg State University.

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